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NEWBURN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR, 1945.

OFFICERS OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Office	Officer	Qualifications.
Medical Officer of Health	Guy B. Picton	M.D. B.S.
Sanitary Inspector	John Corney	A.R. San. I., M.S.I.A. Cert. S.I.B.
Senior Health Visitor	Mrs. D. Linskey (Resigned December, 1945)	Health Visitors Cert. R.S.I. C.M.B. S.R.N.
Assistant Health Visitor	Miss E. Heslop	Health Visitors Cert. R.S.I. C.M.B. S.R.N.
Clerk	Mrs. M. Spears.	

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Newburn Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my fourth annual report.

The General Health of the district has been very good. We had an outbreak of Influenza at the beginning of January and February which was of large number, but fortunately no deaths, and which very soon subsided.

The outbreak of Diphtheria which we had had in 1943 and 1944 gradually came to an end. We had only 21 cases during the year, compared with 118 during the previous year. There were 2 deaths compared with 6 deaths the previous year. One case was moribund when the Doctor saw it. The case was rushed to hospital and despite every effort the child died.

SCARLET FEVER : We had 31 cases of Scarlet Fever and 29 cases were removed to Hospital - no deaths.

PNEUMONIA : We had 25 cases of Pneumonia - no deaths, probably due to treatment by M. & B. which has been most successful.

IMMUNISATION : This has been carried out as before. I would like to say this, that the people are certainly much more anxious to have their children immunised than what they were before.

WAR TIME NURSERY : This continued to go well. There was no epidemic of any importance amongst the children during the year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE :

Live Births	371
Still births	11
No. of children who attended Welfare Centres	1086
No. of new cases attending Welfare Centres	368

PREMATURE INFANTS : We had a few cases that needed treatment soon after leaving Hospital, treatment being generally successful.

ANTE NATAL : I think more people have attended the Ante-Natal Clinic this year than at any time since its commencement, We are rather handicapped sometimes in not being able to get all our cases to Dilston Hall Maternity Home, which has done great service for us.

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN : So far the Northumberland County Council, owing to pressure I suppose, have not been able to help very much in the matter, but we are still looking forward to something being done in this direction.

HOME VISITING : The Health Visitors made a total of 1094 visits.

SCABIES : We still have a few cases but on the whole they are very much less than formerly.

VERMINOUS PREMISES : We have had to treat one or two rather bad cases and one case we had to prosecute for neglect. As far as the welfare of the children was concerned, we got no material assistance from the magistrates who were on the Bench.

DEATHS FROM CANCER : I would like to point out the rather great increase in the deaths of Cancer cases, and hope that in the future we may have better results.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS :

Particulars of District :

Area (in acres)	4,649
Registrar Generals estimate of population	19,400
No. of inhabited houses according to rate books	5,636
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£415
Rateable value 31st March, 1946.	£104,150.

Extracts from Vital Statistics :

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Live Births (legitimate)	187	167	354
-do- (illegitimate)	10	7	17
Stillbirths	5	6	11
Deaths	137	112	249
Birth rate per 1,000 population		19.69	
Stillbirths per 1,000 live & stillbirths		29.79	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population		12.83	

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

There were no deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year :

All infants per 1,000 live births	48.52
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	48.02
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	58.62

Deaths :

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	40
" " Measles " "	-
" " Whooping Cough	2
" " Diarrhoea under 2 years.	3.

Causes of Death in Newburn Area - 1945.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
All Causes	137	112	249
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>	
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-	-	
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-	
4. Whooping Cough	-	2	
5. Diphtheria	2	-	
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	3	
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	-	
8. Syphilitic diseases	2	-	
9. Influenza	-	-	
10. Measles	-	-	
11. Acute polio myelitis	-	-	
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis	-	-	
13. Cancer	23	17	
14. Diabetes	2	1	
15. Intra-Cranial Vascular Lysions	16	21	
16. Heart disease	29	25	
17. Other diseases of Circulatory system	8	8	
18. Bronchitis	8	4	
19. Pneumonia	11	3	
20. Other respiratory diseases	2	-	
21. Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	-	-	
22. Diarrhoea under 2 years	2	1	
23. Appendicitis.	-	1	
24. Other digestive diseases	3	2	
25. Nephritis	2	5	
26. Puerperal Sepsis	-	-	
27. Other maternal causes	-	1	
28. Premature births	4	1	
29. Congenital debility, malformation etc.	4	1	
30. Suicide	-	1	
31. Road traffio accident	3	-	
32. Other violent causes	2	3	
33. All other causes.	6	12	

SECTION B :

- (1) Public Health Officials - see page 2.
 - (2) a. Laboratory facilities remain the same as in former years.
 - b. Ambulance Service - see Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.
 - c. Nursing in the home is controlled by the Northumberland County Council.
 - d. The only treatment centre controlled by this authority is the Sun-Ray Clinic.
 - e. There are no hospitals in the area with the exception of the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Lemington, administered by the West Northumberland Joint Hospital Board, of which this Council is a constituent member.
- (2) (Medical Officers of Health of Counties and County Boroughs only).

Sections, C.D. & E. See Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Section F :

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious
and other Diseases.

The following table gives the number and age groups of the cases of Infectious disease notified during the year.

DISEASE

NUMBER OF CASES - CIVILIANS

	0-		1-		3-		5-		10-		15-		25 & over		Age unknown		Total		Hosp ital		Deaths.
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
	0-		1-		3-		5-		10-		15-		25 & over		Age unknown		Total		Hosp ital		
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	-	4	2	4	9	2	3	2	2	-	1	-	-	14	17	29	-	
Whooping Cough	-	2	1	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	-	-	
Ac.Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Measles	6	6	51	34	42	29	52	48	3	5	1	1	-	2	-	-	136	125	261	20	
Diphtheria	-	-	1	1	4	-	2	1	2	2	3	1	-	4	-	-	12	9	20	2	
Ac. Pneumonia	2	3	1	-	1	5	3	-	2	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	14	11	-	
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ac. Enc. lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Enteric or typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	5	2	1	
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Ophthalm. Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

TUBERCULOSIS :

During the year 24 new cases have been notified,
19 pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary.

The following table shows the age distributions of the
24 new cases and of the deaths of persons certified to be
due to tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS, 1945.

AGE PERIODS	Cases Notified				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1				1				
1 - 5	1	1			1		1	
5 - 15	4		2	2				
15-25	2	2				1	1	
25-35	1	3				1	1	
35-45	3				1			
45-55					2			
55-65	1	1				1	1	
65 & over								
Total	12	7	2	3	4	3	4	-

Set out below is a table showing new cases notified during
the years 1940 - 1945 inclusive.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>New cases notified</u>				<u>Total.</u>
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-pulmonary</u>		
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
1940	13	10	6	5	34
1941	8	3	5	4	20
1942	12	10	5	1	28
1943	22	13	5	5	45
1944	8	11	4	2	25
1945	12	7	2	3	24

G.B. PICTON,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

NEWBURN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR, 1945.

To Dr. Guy B. Picton M.B., B.S.

Sir,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1945. This report covers the second complete year of my work.

HOUSING :

As in 1944, work in connection with housing defects was limited to the investigation of complaints. Difficulty in getting repairs done was again experienced owing to shortage of labour and materials.

WATER SUPPLY :

Water is supplied to the district by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co., and has at all times been satisfactory as regards quality and quantity.

All the houses in the area, with the exception of thirteen, have pipes supplies, the occupants of these thirteen houses drawing their supply from stand pipes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE :

No change has been made in the drainage and sewerage systems during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION :

The closet accommodation remains substantially the same as at the end of 1939.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE :

The refuse collection and disposal is carried out by the Surveyor's Department.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT :

It was possible to carry out a greater number of routine inspections than in previous war years, and it became apparent that great efforts would be necessary to overtake arrears of work in connection with remedying of housing defects. Conditions generally throughout the district are fairly satisfactory.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION :

Owing to centralised slaughtering of cattle, meat inspection is carried out only periodically at Butchers' shops.

The following foods have been condemned and surrendered :-

Canned goods etc :

Milk	504	cans	Figs	25	lbs
Meat Loaf	8	"	Prunes	25	"
Luncheon Meat	18	"	Sausage	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
Chopped Ham	3	"	Sausage Rusk	3	cwt.
Meat rolls	24	"	Ham	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs
Tongue	2	"	Bacon	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs
Spam, Prom, etc	9	"	Kippers	70	lbs
Stewed Steak	17	"	Eggs	1	case
Corned Beef	18	"	Margarine	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.
Sausage	2	"	Butter	3lb 7ozs	
Meat & Vegetables	14	"	Sugar	4	cwts
Vegetables	27	"	Apple Rings	300	lbs
Peas	9	"	Beef	567	lbs.
Beans	27	"	Kidney & Fat	4	lbs.
Soup	5	"			
Marmalade & Jam	21	"			
Apricots	24	"			
Salmon	29	"			
Sardines	4	"			
Pilchards	48	"			
Crayfish	2	"			
Mackerel	85	"			
Herrings	1	"			
Cake Mixture	72	"			
Baking Powder	145	"			
Dessert Powder	117	"			
Semolina	150	pkts			
Fruitella Sauce	39	"			

MILK SUPPLY :

Concern was felt at the comparatively poor standard of cleanliness of samples tested during the year and all milk producers in the area were invited to meet the Council's Health Committee. As a result, the Councillors were better able to appreciate the milk dealers problems while the latter were impressed by the Councils determination to procure a clean milk supply throughout the area. Efforts to have the constructional standard of cowsheds and dairies improved were made and will be intensified as the labour and materials situation gets better.

The following statement shows the number and result of examinations carried out:-

	<u>Produced locally</u>	<u>Produced outside area.</u>
No. of samples collected	40	38
Samples examined by Methylene Blue Reduction Test	40	34
Samples examined for Tubercle Bacilli	19	11

Methylene Blue Reduction Test :

Of the 40 samples produced in the district 20 or 50% were satisfactory.

Of the 34 samples produced outside the district 14 or 58.8% were satisfactory.

Tubercle Bacilli :

19 samples of milk produced inside the district were examined and all were free from tubercle bacilli.

11 samples of milk produced outside the district were examined and 1 was positive.

Pasteurised Milk :

6 samples of pasteurised milk were obtained and all satisfied the prescribed test.

Sterilised Milk :

1 sample was taken and was satisfactory.

Eradication of bed bugs :

As in previous years assistance was given to tenants to rid their premises of vermin. Disinfestation was commenced with powder and liquid containing D.D.T. with encouraging results.

PUBLIC HEALTH PROPAGANDA :

The scheme of Public Health Propaganda was continued throughout the year.

RODENT CONTROL :

During 1944 the systematic treatment of sewers for destruction of rats was commenced, baits being laid in every manhole of the sewer systems where practicable. In 1945 maintenance treatment was carried out only those manholes being baited where infestation was seen originally. This resulted in the estimated kill of some 360 rats at a cost of approximately 1/3d per head.

Trouble was experienced at one of the Refuse Tips and with the co-operation of Ministry of Food officials extensive gassing of rat holes was carried out and found to be effective.

There is no doubt that systematic action has materially reduced the rat population in the district.

AMBULANCE SERVICE :

During the year the number of patients carried was 2,684 of which 75 were accident cases.

We now have four full-time drivers and three ambulances, two being available at all hours and the service is greatly appreciated by the public. Its efficiency is recognised by the Northumberland County Council who use the service for conveying patients to their sanatoria and emergency hospitals.

Owing to short supply of spare parts maintenance difficulties were again experienced.

J. CORNEY,

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

November, 1946.

